

Appl. No. : 09/954,724
Filed : September 12, 2001

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. The Examiner rejected Claims 16 and 18 as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner rejected Claims 1-23 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of some combination of United States Patent No. 6,362,817 to Powers, United States Patent No. 6,847,364 to Dichter, United States Publication No. 2003/0016247 to Lai et al., "Time and Date.Com," and the Examiner's taking of official notice. Applicants have herein amended Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, and 12-23.

Response to Indefiniteness Rejections

Applicants have amended Claims 16 and 18. Applicants submit that Claims 16 and 18 as amended are not indefinite and requests the Examiner to withdraw the indefiniteness rejection.

Response to Obviousness Rejections

In order to expedite the allowance and enforceability of Claims 1-23, and without conceding that the Examiner's rejections are proper, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 12.

Applicants submit that no reference in the prior art of record teaches every limitation of either amended Claim 1 or amended Claim 12. Applicants further submit that no combination of references in the prior art of record renders either amended Claim 1 or amended Claim 12 obvious. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 12 are allowable and request the Examiner to withdraw the obviousness rejections of Claims 1 and 12.

Applicants submit that Claims 2-11 are allowable at least because they depend from Claim 1. Applicants submit that Claims 13-23 are allowable at least because they depend from Claim 12. Applicants further submit that Claims 2-11 and 13-23 are allowable independent of the allowability of Claims 1 and 12 in light of the added limitations of Claims 2-11 and 13-23. Accordingly, Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the obviousness rejections of Claims 2-11 and 13-23.

Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's characterizations of the claims or of the prior art of record or with the Examiner's positions regarding motivation to combine and the taking of official notice. Applicants reserve the right to later argue, in this application or any subsequent application, against any characterization made by the Examiner or position taken by the Examiner.

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Amendments to Claims 4, 6, 7, 13-15, 17, and 19-23

Applicants have amended Claims 4, 6, 7, 13-15, 17, and 19-23 to enhance readability and consistency in claim language. Applicants believe that these amendments do not affect the scope of the amended claims, except that Applicants believe that Claim 4 has been broadened at least in some respects.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that Claims 1-23 are allowable and respectfully request such allowance.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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